

Garden

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share an appreciation of the environment, this is the one day of the year that garden admission is free.

Alpacas from Marquam Hill Ranch Alpacas will greet guests by the Tropical Hot House, adjacent to the Pavilion.

Inside, there will be 20 different exhibitors, crafts, local food vendors and live musical entertainment.

Marion County Environmental Services will offer informative diversions. Jessica Ramey, Marion County Waste Production Coordinator, said these would include a composting demonstration, a station to make buttons, The Mushroomery to learn to grow mushrooms, an area where seedlings are being planted so children can create their own plant starts, and various other



THE OREGON GARDEN / SPECIAL TO THE STAYTON MAIL
The Oregon Garden will hold an Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 22.

booths with energy tips, soil and water conservation and related topics.

"Earth Day is such a special day to honor the environment," Ramey said. "It's a wonderful day for people to come together to explore nature and to build a connection between our daily habits and how they affect the environment."

The star of the show, of course, is the garden itself.

The Oregon Garden is an 80-acre botanical garden, featuring more than 20 specialty gardens, water features, garden art, wetlands and a rediscovery forest.

Guests can explore the grounds on foot, ride on a complimentary narrated tram tour or have some fun with one of the nine geocaches in and around the garden. The visitor center can provide maps and GPS devices.

"We love Earth Day at The Oregon Garden because it gives us the chance to connect with families and help them discover how to be better stewards of the earth," said Sara Hammond, Oregon Garden Regional Marketing Manager. "As a botanical garden, we believe that every day should be Earth Day. Our garden is full of educational opportunities for families, and we love being able to bring in other vendors to share their unique knowledge with our visitors."

If you go

What: 18th annual Oregon Garden Earth Day Celebration

When: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, April 22

Where: The Oregon Garden, 879 W. Main St., Silverton

Cost: Free admission. A \$5 donation is recommended for the activities and entertainment. On-site parking is \$5. Free parking at Robert Frost Elementary School, 201 Westfield St., and free shuttles will run every 30 minutes from the gravel lot between Roth's Fresh Markets and Seven Brides Brewing, 918 N. First St. Leashed dogs are allowed in the garden but not on shuttles.

Contact: For more information, visit www.OregonGarden.org or call (503) 874-8100.

Much

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them in the program," Ashley said.

This event is also serves an opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about the charter school to get a wealth of information, through an informative presentation or just casual mingling.

"We're hoping to do a little slide show...a video presentation talking about the school," Angela said. "That way people can learn about charter school and what it's all about."

Ashley added that this year's fundraising aims primarily at bolstering the new science curriculum, and also at helping to secure Chromebooks for the younger students; 5-through-8 grades already have the latter.

To learn more about the school or get tickets or make a donation to the auction, contact **Adrienne Campbell** at 503-873-4300 or campbell_adrienne@silverfalls.k12.or.us. Web information is also available: <https://bethanycharterauction.wordpress.com/>, Bethany Charter <http://bethanycharter.silverfallschools.org>, Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BethanyCharterBobcats/>

Church anniversary

Silverton's Trinity Lutheran Church has sent out 160 invitations for its 125-year celebration, which is scheduled for the weekend of June 2-4. Parishioner **Norm English** brings us up to speed on the planning and reminds everyone that the public is invited to this historical event.

The celebration kicks off with a traditional Scandinavian dinner on Friday. Cost is \$20 for adults, discounted for ages 12 and younger.

Next chat

What: Creekside Chat

Where: Silver Creek Coffee House, 111 Water St., Silverton

When: 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, April 19 (First and third Wednesdays)

Questions and information: Contact Justin Much, jmuch@StatesmanJournal.com; cell 503-508-8157; or follow at twitter.com/justinmuch

As noted in the celebration title, the church at 500 N. 2nd St. dates back to the late 1800s. Norm imparted that there was an original small structure, then later a parsonage and a Sunday school building were added.

The current structure dates back to 1919 with a major renovation taking place in 1971.

Highlights included in the milestone celebration are a historic room dedicated to the church's saga, featuring some items used over the years. The colorful stained-glass windows are a part of that history and an ongoing feature of the church.

Learn more about the church and event by contacting (503) 873-2635 or visiting www.trinitysilverton.org.

Parks amenities

Norm switched hats during the conversation to update a Silverton Country Historical Society interest, Freedom Memorial Plaza at Town Square Park.

He said signage is now in place to direct visitors to the memorial, a welcome addition around town as the memorial was completed roughly 15 months ago. The signage is located in four locations; one directing visitors from Molalla, another from Mt. Angel and the others from Pine and McClaine streets.



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN MUCH / APPEAL TRIBUNE

Angela Rose, left, and Ashley West stopped into Silver Creek Coffee House for a Creekside Chat about the Bethany Charter School Annual Auction.

After-school program

ASAP – the After School Activities Program – is on the cusp of learning some big news. **Sue Roessler** and **Judy Lowery** were on hand at Silver Creek, and awaiting the news and announcement. No news yet; only hints. Stay tuned to upcoming Creekside Chats.

Silverton's ASAP is an after-school program focused on individual academic support, nutritious meals, and engaging activities for 7th and 8th grade students in the Silver Falls school district Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m. during the school year. To learn more or volunteer, contact Josh at joshburgeson@gmail.com.



Judy Lowery, left, and Sue Roessler are advocates of Silverton's After School Activities Program.

Ride-hailing officials make pitch to Oregon lawmakers

JONATHAN BACH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Ride-hailing companies made their pitch to Oregon lawmakers Monday in support of a bill that would give them the green light to operate around the Pacific Northwestern state.

Officials from Uber and Lyft voiced their support for House Bill 3246 as they testified in front of the House Committee on Business and Labor during a packed afternoon hearing in the Capitol.

The bill would require these companies to get licenses from the Department of Consumer and Business Services.

"We're committed to the state of Oregon, and we hope you support House Bill 3246," said Bryce Bennett, a general manager with Uber.

"At a basic level, we make it easier for people to offer neighbors a ride and help people carpool more efficiently," said Laura Bisesto, a government relations manager with Lyft. "This service enhances transportation options for Oregonians and tourists alike."

Others presented their opposition to the bill during the hearing.

As lawmakers consider the bill that would enable these companies to work statewide, Salem City Hall is in the middle of trying to figure out how it would bring the ride-hailing companies, also known as transportation network companies, to the capital city.

Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett testified in support of the bill Monday on behalf of the city of Salem. He has advocated for the ride-hailing companies that let people hail a ride via a phone app to come to the capital city.

"We think it does make sense to have one set of regulations statewide," he told lawmakers. "This certainly would relieve us of having to pass our own ordinance."

The House Committee On Business and Labor will hold another public hearing on the bill at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Hearing Room E.

Other bills that deal with transportation network companies will get a hearing at that time, too.

Send questions, comments or news tips to jbach@statesmanjournal.com or 503-399-6714. Follow him on Twitter @JonathanMBach.



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